



DR. BUU NYGREN *PRESIDENT*

RICHELLE MONTOYA *VICE PRESIDENT*

The Navajo Nation | Yideeskáadi Nitsáhákees

March 13, 2023

William Bates
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
MC: 4606M
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Bates:

The Navajo Nation appreciates the opportunity to seek funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to establish a Class VI primacy program on the Navajo Nation. A program that oversees a Class VI program will need to be developed within the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA) to begin regulating the geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide. The NNEPA UIC Program looks forward to developing primary enforcement and permitting responsibility for Class VI underground injection control wells.

The Navajo Nation understands there is a condition of the grant to "demonstrate how environmental justice (EJ) and equity considerations be incorporated to include potential EJ concerns, enhancing public involvement, appropriately scoped EJ assessments, enhancing transparency throughout the permitting process and minimizing adverse effects associated with permitting actions." The EJ requirement will be incorporated in the development of the program, specifically, the requirements of public participation in rulemaking and permitting decisions. The Navajo Nation also understands that there is no cash match requirement.

Please accept this letter of intent to support the development of a Class VI UIC Program on the Navajo Nation. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Yolanda Barney by email to ybarney@navajopublicwater.org.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen B. Etsitty".

Stephen B. Etsitty
Executive Director
Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency